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Saigon 7204

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EXCISE

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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04,
DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, NSAE 00, SAH 03, SAL 01, IO 21, CU 04, AID 30,
EUR 25, RSR 01, /189 W

R 291245Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7857
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4387
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMCXSUL DANANG 1030
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
2636

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7204

SUBJECT: YOUTH, STUDENTS, AND ELECTIONS

REF: SAIGON 7006

1. IN CONTINUING EFFORT PRESSURE ASSEMBLY INVALIDATE SEPTEMBER 3 ELECTION RESULTS, STUDENT LEADERS HELD "NIGHT OF STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY" IN HEADQUARERS OF RG
SAIGON STUDENT UNION NIGHT SEPTEMBER 27. ALTHOUGH SCHEDULED AS ALL-NIGHT EVENT, THE AFFAIR ENDED AFTER TWO

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HOURS AT 2230 WHEN ORIGINAL CROWD OF 500, INCLUDING PRESS AND ONLOOKERS, HAD DROPPED TO 200 AND RANKS OF MILITANTS CONTINUED TO THIN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Jean Izzard DATE 12/24/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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2. WHILE IT LASTED, EVENT WAS NOTABLE FOR ANTI-AMERICAN TONE. US ATTACKED FOR INTERFERING IN ELECTIONS, PROLONGING WAR, DISTURBING VIETNAMESE TRADITIONS AND LAW AND ORDER. STUDENTS ALSO URGED CANDIDATES FOR LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS TO WITHDRAW; CANDIDATES WERE NOTICEABLE BY THEIR ABSENCE. STUDENT LEADERS ALSO READ SUPPORT MESSAGE FROM NEWLY-FORMED HUE UNIVERSITY INTER-FACULTY STUDENT COMMITTEE.

3. INTER-UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (SINH VIEN LIEN VIEN, REPRESENTING VAN HANH, CAN THO, AND SAIGON STUDENT UNIONS) STILL PLANNING MEETING 0900 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH WHICH MIGHT WELL CULMINATE IN MARCH FROM SSU HEADQUARTERS TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ASSEMBLY MEETS 30TH DISCUSS VALIDATION OF SEPTEMBER 3 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS.

4. MEANWHILE, IT APPEARS TRI QUANG AND AN QUANG BUDDHISTS

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HAVE BACKED OFF FROM DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT ANTI-RIGGING CAMPAIGN AFTER SMALL BUDDHIST DEMONSTRATION IN SAIGON, AND UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS AT DEMONSTRATIONS IN DANANG AND HUE MORNING SEPTEMBER 24, ON ELECTION ISSUE. BIG MARCH OF SEPTEMBER 28 CONCENTRATED EXCLUSIG
LY ON
BUDDHIST CHARTER ISSUE, SUPPORTING OTHER INDICATIONS [redacted] THAT TRI QUANG PREFERS NOT TO BECOME
OPENLY INVOLVED WITH STUDENT PROTESTS EVEN THOUGH HE CONTINUES TO EXERCISE DISCREET INFLUENCE ON INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS (AT LEAST THOSE FROM VAN HANH) WHO ARE LEADING THEM. BUNKER

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CLASSIFICATION